

Music development plan summary: William Barnes Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Rosina Gilbert
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Dorset
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Vision and Mission

Music is unique in the way it permeates our lives, and we endeavour to make the most of its joyful and stimulating presence. The music offered at William Barnes School reflects the rich multicultural society in which we live, and we invite pupils to take an active interest in all music and encourage them to become part of the music within the school. Children listen to music regularly, discussing the sounds they hear, the instruments used, the meaning of lyrics and how the music makes them feel.

Music Curriculum

Our school uses the national curriculum for music as the basis for its curriculum planning as well as supplementing with guidance from the Model Music Curriculum (March, 2021). We support our teaching with a variety of resources gathered from various published schemes

(Music express, Charanga, Hampshire Music Service, Dorset Music Service), which are adapted and extended to suit individual classes. Teaching staff ensure that they deliver lessons based on the 7 fundamental musical dimensions (*pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations*), providing children with the opportunity each year to build on skills previously learned. Performance features heavily in our curriculum, we believe that playing music is the best way to experience it. Performances can be individual, in small or large groups and can be within lessons or to the whole school and can be of the pupils' own composition or taught pieces. We believe that music should be easily accessible for all children, pupils with SEND can participate and progress well (supported by technology, tools and adapted instruments). Space and resources allow breadth of curriculum for all students, including the introduction of music technology.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At William Barnes we believe that 'Every Child Counts' and this is reflected in our music lessons. Music is offered as a stimulating and rewarding experience – something that can be enjoyed by everyone. Scientific research show that singing is an effective way of raise endorphins level; simply put, singing makes us happy!

- We aim to sing whenever we can, and the pupils take part in a whole school singing session each week, KS2 with the Music lead and KS1 with teachers. The whole school sings together once a term in a whole school singing assembly led by the Music lead. Assembly time is also a listening opportunity, and the pupils are offered a wide range of musical styles to listen to and discuss.
- Classes take part in *Stormbreak* activities which are designed to stimulate brain activity, promote good mental health and wellbeing, and finds healthy links to our bodies and minds. They are often accompanied by music, using it as a tool to stimulate various emotions or create a specific atmosphere.
- Music lessons are taught once a week. Some year groups get the opportunity to work with Dorset Music Hub directly, Year 4 learn the Ukelele for a half term with one of their specialist team.
- There is a school choir which meet once a week. They have performed at a number of events throughout the year, going out into the community to care homes and to fundraising events at school as well as in the local town.
- Children can also sign up to a number of different peripatetic music lessons, currently available is piano, violin and guitar.

As with all learning at William Barnes Primary we encourage a growth mindset. We appreciate that musical skills are like any other skills; they can be learned and require practice and encouragement in order to improve. Many of the activities offered within lessons will be open-ended and can have a

variety of responses, thus allowing for differentiation by outcome. Other activities may be specifically differentiated to allow for children with particular abilities.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

At William Barnes we welcome and encourage opportunities to expose children to a number of different life experiences which we believe will leave a long-lasting positive effect.

Children in the **choir** will partake in a number of events across the school year. Christmas time is particularly busy, we have sung in the local town square, at church services and in the local schools pyramid concert. At Easter time the choir sing in the whole schools in house music performance, singing a few songs they have learnt accompanied by sign language and Makaton.

Over the course of the year various year groups will spend time learning a performance. In KS1 Reception, along with Year 1 and 2 together, will perform a version of the Nativity. In the Spring term, Year 4 will share what they have learnt from the Hampshire Music Hub in their Ukelele lessons. At Easter time the school carry out a Singing Performance to showcase the songs they have been learning in singing assemblies. And, at the end of the year, Year 6 showcase their end of school performance with the support of the rest of KS2 as their choir.

We are also very proud of our links with the community. Reception and year 6 will take part in an individual service at the church during the Christmas period celebrating the big changes that they are about to embark on. The whole school will also go to the church and take part in a service celebrating the story of Jesus's birth, singing songs and sharing the Christmas message.

As well as all the opportunities we provide in school, we take the children to a pantomime at Christmas at the Poole Lighthouse Theatre. In the summer term we have also managed to secure a fantastic free experience of visiting the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performing live. In the run up to this trip children are asked to learn a new song, with accompanying Makaton signing, and body percussion. We learn this and are then able to perform this from the audience, along with listening to a variety of musical pieces performed by them.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

We hope to develop musical technology within the curriculum. 21st Century music is now heavily focussing on the use of music software to create music; we hope to allow children the chance to explore the necessary skills to develop music in this way.

We also hope to increase the number of opportunities for KS2 to perform throughout the school year, linking to significant events such as Harvest and Easter.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school. Please take a look if you wish to explore this for your child.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.